

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-20, 22-28, and 30-34 are pending following entry of the amendments herein. Claims 2, 21, and 29 have been canceled. The claims have also been amended to address formality objections and indefiniteness rejections by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

ARGUMENTS

The Examiner objected to the use of the claim terms "or" and "and/or" as improper. With respect to the claim term "or", the applicants traverse the objection as improper. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to Section 2173.05(h) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), which states that "alternative expressions using 'or' are acceptable." With respect to the claim term "and/or", the claims have been amended to replace the objectionable term with the acceptable "or" term.

Claims 5-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite. Claims 5, 9, and 16 have been amended to address the Examiner's position. The applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5-19 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-20, 22-28, and 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,201,364 (Will). Claim 1 recites a shade control system comprising a plurality of drive units, a plurality of drive unit controllers, and a communication bus. The drive units and drive unit controllers are connected to the communication bus in a common arrangement such that each of the drive units and drive unit controllers can communicate with every other drive unit and drive unit controller. Claim 1 also recites a microprocessor associated with at least one of the drive units and drive unit controllers that is programmed to automatically address each one of the drive units and drive unit controllers with a unique identifier.

Will discloses a motorized shade control system. Will, however, does not disclose that the motorized shade control system includes a microprocessor programmed to automatically address each drive unit and drive unit controller of the shade control system with a

unique identifier, as required. Will, therefore, does not show each feature of claim 1. Accordingly, Will does not anticipate claim 1.

Each of claims 3-16 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, is not anticipated by Will for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 17 recites a motorized shade control system comprising a plurality of drive units and a plurality of drive unit controllers connected to a communication bus in a common arrangement. Each drive unit includes a control unit having a microprocessor programmed to initiate an automatic addressing of each of the drive units and drive unit controllers connected to the communication bus.

Again, Will does not disclose a motorized shade control system including microprocessors programmed to initiate an automatic addressing of each drive unit and drive unit controller of the shade control system, as required by claim 17. Will, therefore, does not anticipate claim 17. Each of claims 18 and 19 depends from claim 17 and, therefore, is not anticipated by Will for the same reasons as claim 17.

Claim 20 recites a method for controlling a motorized shade system comprising the steps of providing a plurality of drive units and drive unit controllers and connecting the drive units and drive unit controllers to a communication bus in a common arrangement. Claim 20 also recites the steps of including a plurality of keypad controllers and providing each keypad controller with a programmable microprocessor. The method of claim 20 further recites the step of programming the microprocessor of each keypad controller to initiate an automatic addressing of each drive unit and drive unit controller of the system in response to actuation of the keypad controller.

Will does not disclose a method of controlling a motorized shade control system comprising the steps of including a plurality of keypad controllers, providing each keypad controller with a programmable microprocessor, and programming the microprocessor of each keypad controller to initiate an automatic addressing of each drive unit and drive unit controller in response to actuation of the keypad controller, as required by claim 20. Will, therefore, does not anticipate claim 20. Each of claims 22-28, and 30-34 depends from claim 20 and, therefore, is not anticipated by Will for the same reasons as claim 20.

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 3-20, 22-28, and 30-34 based on Will be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that direct communication would advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

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